



March 11, 2004

**Providence man pleads guilty to being
a felon in possession of a firearm**

Jermaine Robinson, 30, of Providence, has pleaded guilty to a federal charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm. In September a Providence Police officer investigating a report of gun shots near Manton Avenue saw Robinson discard a handgun.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty plea, which Robinson entered on March 5 before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres. Robinson, of 12 Drill Street, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 28.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on September 12, Officer Joseph Acampora was investigating a report that shots had been fired near Manton and Atwells Avenue. At the intersection of Manton Avenue and Fairfield Street, Officer Acampora observed Robinson discard a dark object, which turned out to be a .38 revolver. Officers also found quantities of crack cocaine in Robinson's possession. Robinson later admitted that the gun was his and that said he had retrieved it from his girlfriend's house to protect himself in a fight.

Robinson has prior felonies that include two convictions for possessing controlled substances. As a felon he is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms. The statutory maximum penalty is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing

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is determined on the basis of guidelines that are based on such factors as the specific nature of

an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Vilker is prosecuting it.

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